WITH "JEAN" IN FRENCH ARMY IN PEACE AND WAR

The French Citizen Is Called to the Colors at the Age of 20 and Passes From Actual Duty Two Years Later

AN intimate study of the life of a French soldier while with the colors is set forth in a volume just issued by the George H. Doran Company called "The French Army from Within." The author subscribes himself simply "Ex-Trooper" and lets it go at that without any attempt to win fame.

From the age of 20 to that of 45, says the author, every Frenchman physically capable of military service is a soldier. Each commune compiles yearly a list of its young men who have attained the age of 20 during the preceding twelve months. All these young men are examined by the conseil de révision cantonale, a revising body of military and civilian officials, by whom the men not physically fit are at once rejected and men who may possibly attain to the standard of fitness required are put back for examination after a sufficient interval has elapsed to admit of their development in height, weight or other requirement in which they are deficient. Five feet and half an inch is the minimum standard of height, though men of exceptional physical quality are passed into the infantry below this height.

Registered at the age of 20, the French citizen is called to the colors on the first of October following his registration, and passes from the active army two years later on September 30. In old days, when the period of service in the active army was for five years, the French army was an unpopular institution, but the shortening of service, together with the knowledge, possessed by the nation as a whole, that the need for every citizen soldier would eventually rise through the action of Germany, have combined to render the army not only an important item in national life but a popular one. There used to be grousers and bad characters by the score, but now they are rarely found.

The officers of the French army receive their training at military schools established in various parts of the republic, or else are recruited from among non-commissioned officers. Not less than one-third of the total number of French officers rise to commissions by the latter method—Napoleon's remark about the marshal's bâton in the private soldier's knapsack still holds good in the French army. The principal training schools are those of St. Cyr for infantry and cavalry officers, the Ecole Polytechnique for artillery and engineer officers and the musketry school at Châlons. The schools of St. Maixent, Saumur, Versailles, and the gymnastic school at Joinville-le-Pont are intended for the training of non-commissioned officers selected for commissions.

The rate of pay for men in the first period of service is very low, ranging from the equivalent of a halfpenny a day upward; but the law under which the army is constituted provides for the reenlistment of such men as wish to make a career of the army, and on reenlistment the rate of pay is materially increased, while a bounty is given on reengagement, and at the conclusion of a certain amount of service reengaged men are granted pensions. It is only reasonable that, with the adoption of the principle of universal service, the rate of pay should be low; voluntary reenlistment, however, is a different matter, so the republic rewards the men who reengage at the conclusion of their first term. From among them are selected practically all the non-commissioned officers, while, considering that all necessaries of life are provided for them in addition to their pay, even the rank and file are not badly off.

British soldiers, serving under a voluntary system, have little to say for the conscript system, but a glance round Paris in time of peace might persuade them that there are various compensations and advantages in a conscript army which they, serving voluntarily, do not enjoy. It is a surprise to one who has served in the British army to see the French Republican Guards stationed on the grand staircase of the Opera and also at all entrances and exits of this famous building. In practically every theatrical establishment in Paris the guards may be seen on this class of duty, for which they get specially paid. There are military attendants at the Folies Bergeres, at the Nouveau Cirque at the Moulin Rouge and even at such an irresponsible home of laughter as the Bal Tabarin. As the darky said of Daniel in the lions' den, these men get a free show.

But it is not only when on duty that the French soldier is to be seen in such places of amusement as these, for the non-commissioned officer to be found in company with his wife or fiancee in every class of seat. It is no uncommon thing to find among the most attentive listeners at the Opera a number of soldiers, in full uniform, among the fashionable people in the stalls. The republican rule, which makes of every man a citizen and an equal of all the rest, leads to what, in such a country as England, would be considered curious anomalies. Besides the newspaper critic in full evening dress may be seen the private soldier, in uniform, taking notes with probably greater intelligence than the newspaper man; for the soldier may be anything in civilian life; the son of the rich banker occupies the next bed in the barrack room to the son of the Breton peasant and the Cabinet Minister's lad, when in uniform, is on a level with the gamin of Paris.

It must be confessed that the average French soldier, when off parade, looks rather slovenly. The baggy trousers go a long way toward the creation of this impression. Then, again, the way in which the French soldier is trained to march is far different from British principles. The "pas-de-flexion" does not look so smart as the stately march of the British Guards, but it is more effective.

But at the given occasion comes the word from the colonel; correct formations appear out of the threes and fives of men as if by magic. The band is a corporate body, marching to attention, and playing the regiment on with every bit as fine a military appearance as any British band. The men resume step, and with their peculiar swinging march follow on, a regiment at attention, and as fine a regiment, in appearance as well as in fact, as one would wish to see. Work is work and play is play, and the French soldier does both thoroughly.

In the matter of smartness it is hardly fair to compare a British infantry battalion with a French one, for the point arises yet once more with regard to the difference between a voluntary and a conscript system. The English battalion is made up of picked men, while in the French service all citizens are included. The fact of choice in the case of the British battalion makes for uniformity. The recruits of the French battalion include every man who has been passed by the revising board, and there is not the same chance of maintaining that uniformity which alone is responsible for smartness. And smartness itself is but a survival from the days when a soldier was trained to no more than unquestioning obedience, the old days before warfare became so scientific as it is at present, when initiative was not required of the rank and file. The only purpose served by smartness at the present day is that of recruiting, and obviously a conscript army has no need of this. Hence use rather than appearance comes first.

So far as the rank and file of the French army are concerned, no officer above the rank of Colonel is of consequence, for the man in the ranks is not likely to come in contact with a general officer once in a twelvemonth. The Colonel is the head of the regiment, whether of artillery, cavalry or infantry, and his authority extends in every direction over the men he commands. With the help of the Conseil d'Administration he directs the administration of his regiment, and he is responsible for discipline and instruction, all forms of military education, sanitation, and police control, while, needless to say, he is held responsible for the efficiency of the regiment and the appearance of its men. He has absolute power as regards the appointment of all non-commissioned officers and corporals, who in the French army do not rank as non-commissioned officers.

The officer known in the British service as quartermaster is termed major in the French army, but the French major has more definite authority than the British quartermaster. Under his charge are placed the regulation of pay and accounts, the making of purchases, the supervision of equipment and barrack furniture, &c. The French major, in addition to these headquarters duties which concern the well being of the whole regiment, has definite command of the fifth squadron, which forms the depot for the regiment in case of war.

From the major the capitaine tresorier receives the pay and moneys which have to be distributed to the regiment. He is a member of the Conseil d'Administration, from which he receives his authorization to make payment. The pay of the men is handed to them every fifth day, when the capitaine tresorier or paymaster hands over to the sergeant-major of each squadron, or to the captain commanding, the pay of the squadron for distribution among the men. He also makes all payments and issues demands for supplies for the horses of the regiment, and a lieutenant or sub-lieutenant is appointed to assist the paymaster in his duties.

There is a strict but unwritten law of the French army as regards the canteen: no man may take a drink by himself. Faire suisse is the term applied if one goes to the canteen alone, and the rest of the men in the conscripts' room look on him as something of a mean fellow if he does such a thing as this. Of course, it works out at the same thing in the end, and share and share alike is not a bad principle, while it is eminently good republicanism. Jean must share his remittance from home with somebody; he can pick the men whom he desires to treat, but he must not lay himself open to the accusation of faire suisse, no matter what arm of the service he represents. It is bad comradeship, for his fellows when they have a slice of luck would not think of doing it. Why should he?

Thus, and with justice, they reason, and out of such reasoning comes the sharing of the last drops of water with a comrade on the field, the acts of self-denial and courageous self-sacrifice for which men of the French army have always been famed. It is a little thing in itself, this compulsory sharing of one's luck, but it leads to great things at times.

One good thing about the canteen is its cheapness. One can get coffee and a roll—which amounts to a French conscript's breakfast—for the equivalent of three halfpence, and this charge is a fair sample of the prices of all things. Whatever one may ask for, too, it is served in good quality, for the canteen is under strict supervision of the officers, who are quick to note and remedy any cause for complaint on the part of the men.

Early morning breakfast as it is served in the British army is unknown in French units. On turning out in the morning coffee is brought round to the barrack rooms, but the first real meal of the day is "soup" at 10 o'clock. The food is properly served in dishes, and a corporal or a man told off for the duty is at the head of each table to help each man to his allowance, for which an enamelled plate is provided. Crockery is unsafe in a barrack room, and the fact is wisely recognized.

As for canteen songs, one may guess that in the French army there is always plenty of real talent, for the nation as a whole, like all Latin nationalities, is a very musical one, and since all come to the army, the singers come with the rest. The songs, perhaps, are not of the highest drawing room order, even for French drawing rooms, but the musical and vocal abilities of the singers are beyond question; for in a gathering of men where the best can be obtained, little short of the best ventures to bring itself to notice.

Although it is a conscript army, there are regimental traditions, as in the British or in any other service. Your conscript in his second year of service will tell how his regiment captured the colors here, or saved the position there, in the way back days, and is nearly as proud of it as if he, instead of the fellow soldiers of his great-grandfather, were concerned in the business. Esprit de corps, though now a common phrase in connection with the British army, was first of all a French idiom—and is yet, and an untranslatable one too—designed to express the French soldier's pride in his own unit of the service or in his own branch of the service. At the present time it has as much application to the French army as in the day when the phrase was coined; pride in his own powers of endurance and pride in the unit in which he serves still characterize the French conscript, and in the last ten years or so this feeling has grown to such an extent as to place the French army, although a conscript organization, on a level with a voluntary force.

Some time ago Conan Doyle created in "Brigadier Gerard" an excellent picture of a French cavalry officer of the old type, and to some extent the picture of Gerard—the most human and realistic figure Conan Doyle has ever penned, by the way—still holds good as regards both officers and men. One may find in both officers and men of the French cavalry to-day much of the absolute disregard of risks rather than bravery as that is understood among the English, which characterizes the brigadier. There is, too, much of Gerard's vanity in modern French cavalry officers and men, much of his susceptibility of influence and all of his absolute loyalty to a superior. The French cavalryman will tell his comrades how he dislikes his squadron officer, but he will follow that squadron officer anywhere and into any danger—his loyalty is sufficient for any test that may be imposed on him. Like Gerard, he will brag of the things he has done, will devote much time to explaining exactly how he did them and how no other man could have done them just as well until a British cavalryman, if he were listening, would tell the speaker to pass the salt and hire a trumpeter to blow for him. But though the French cavalryman is true to the Gerard picture in that he boasts inordinately, it will be found when one has got to close acquaintance with him that he does not boast without reason. He has done a good thing—why not talk about it? For if he does not nobody else will.

Cooking is an art indigenous to France, and the very best cooks of France practice their art on their comrades of the barrack room, while there are few companies or squadrons in the French army that do not contain at least one professional chef. The British army suffers at times from monotonous menus, "stews" alternating with "roast" until a meat pie would be a joy, and any variety of diet would be welcome. But in the French army, given material corresponding in any way to the needs of the soldier, there is no lack of variety in the food. There are two ways of cooking a potato in the British army to twenty in the French service; the British soldiers get eggs served in two or three ways, but the conscript cook of the French army can cook an egg in a way that disguises it to such an extent that a hen would disown it—and there are many ways of doing this. Soup precedes the more solid course of the French soldier's meal, and there are savory dishes and concoctions which to the British soldier would be but mystery. The French cook is an artist at all times, and his art is no less evident during his conscript days than before and after.

Sweet dishes are rare, and the taste of the soldier lies more in the matter of savories. In addition to the regular provisions made for the troops there are many men who in their spare time cook dishes to suit their own fancies. The "messing allowance" of the British

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PROPOSES SEVEN NATION WORLD TO MAKE WAR IMPOSSIBLE

By H. S. WORTHINGTON.

WHEN "grim visaged war hath smoothed his wrinkled front," what shall follow?

The sentiment of patriotism has caused wars and devastation, in the throes of which millions may soon be murdered. If intercommunication had been as easy in the beginning of man's existence in sufficient numbers to constitute nations as it now is, it is probable that the entire world would now be under one governmental system; that language and law would be uniform throughout all the habitable regions of the earth and that peace would reign supreme.

Worldwide nationalization is not now practicable, but an approach to that ultimate desideratum is within the realm of reason. There are now only seven great nations; namely, England, United States of America, Germany, France, Russia, China and Japan.

All others exist because of the mutual jealousy of these but for which all others would, long ere this, have been absorbed by one or the other of them.

If by an amicable agreement the smaller States were allotted to one of the other of these seven great Powers the main cause for war and devastation, which is race hatred and greed for territorial aggrandizement, would be ended, and such internecine strife as would from time to time arise could be easily terminated or suppressed.

Divisions can be made in two ways or on one or the other of two bases, namely: geographical or ethnological. The former at present is largely conterminous with the latter. Since geographical conditions cannot be changed, and since racial differences can be largely obliterated, the former, the geographical, would be the most logical basis of apportionment.

The following distribution, which would cause no very radical departure from existing conditions, is suggested. Each division is designated by its predominant race or nation.

Europe—To be divided into three divisions, Northern, Central and Southern, in which the chief racial characters are Slavonic, Teutonic and Latin.

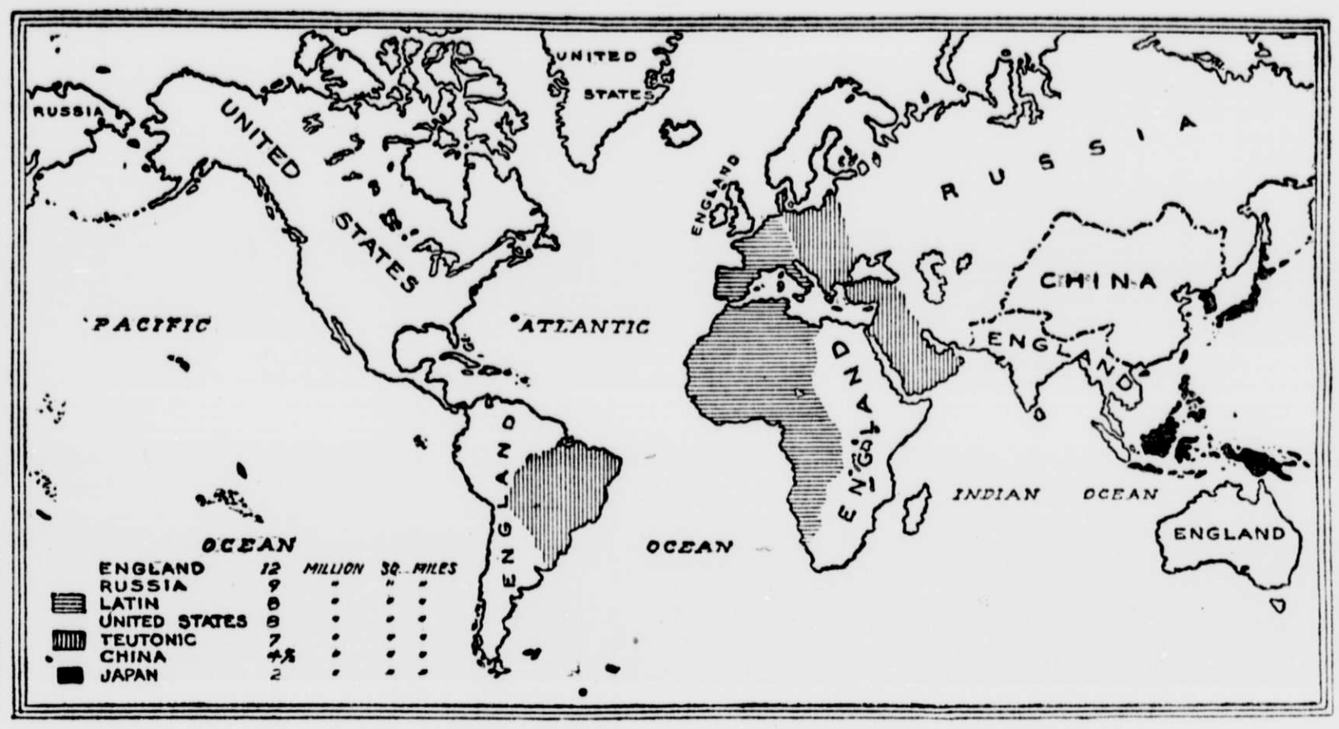
Continental Asia—To be divided into three divisions, Northern, Central and Southern, or Slavonic (Siberia), Mongolian (China) and Hindus (India).

Insular Asia—Japan and England to own all thereof, namely, Australasia, or Polynesia.

Africa to be owned by England and Southern Europe; South America by England and Central Europe, and North America to be owned by the United States.

In detail the apportionment would be about as follows:

England—To release Canada to the United States of America and take South America, outside of Brazil. To take all of Africa east of about latitude 28 east, retaining all existing possessions and including Madagascar. To retain in Asia all existing possessions and add Siam, French Indo-China, the Malay peninsula and the island of Sumatra. This would constitute the British Empire, comprising about twelve millions of square miles and about 155 millions of people outside of India and Sumatra, and about 450 millions including India and Sumatra. In this there would be no great alteration of existing conditions except the absorption of western South America, comprising the small States of that continent outside of Brazil, in compensation for the loss of Canada.



United States of America—To comprise all of North America, Greenland, the Greater Antilles and the Hawaiian Islands, yielding the Philippine Islands to Japan. This would constitute an ocean bound republic of about eight million square miles and 130 million people, from the Isthmian Canal to the North Pole, or Arctic Sea.

United States of Northern Europe—To comprise Russia as it now exists, Norway and Sweden. To this in Asia would be added Siberia, also Persia and Afghanistan, constituting the Russian or Slavonic Empire, containing about nine million square miles of domain and about 180 millions of people.

United States of Central Europe—To comprise Denmark and Iceland, Holland, Germany, Austria, all the Balkan States, Turkey in Europe and Greece. To this should be added in Asia all of Turkey in Asia and Arabia; also Brazil in South America. This would constitute the Teutonic Empire or Federation, containing about seven million square miles of domain and about 175 millions of people. All other possessions to be yielded to the other Powers as herein suggested.

United States of Southern Europe—To comprise France, Spain, Italy, Portugal, Switzerland and Belgium in Europe and all of Africa not allotted to England, constituting the Latin nation or Federation, containing about eight million square miles of domain and about 170 millions of people.

China—China to remain as now, constituting the Mongolian nation or republic, containing about four and one-half million square miles of domain and about 400 million people.

Japan—Japan to comprise her present holdings and to add the Philippine Islands, Papua (or New Guinea), Borneo, Java, the Celebes and adjacent islands north of Australia, constituting the Insular or Malay Empire or Federation, containing about two million square miles of domain and about 120 million people.

Thus the seven great nations would own all of the earth's surface with no petty states for any of them to absorb, and thus removing all cause for national jealousy and all possibility for the acquisition by any nation of territory not contained in the original apportionment.

None of the Powers should be allowed to maintain an independent navy or coast or border defences, but each could own and operate a merchant marine of any magnitude desired.

The naval heptarchy should consist of seven persons, one from each nation, to be appointed for life.

This heptarchy should own all the naval equipment that the world contains, which could be small and inexpensive, and hold suzerainty or dominion over all the high seas. It should also be a Court of International Arbitrament for the adjustment of all international disputes or differences. All nations should be guaranteed equal rights to the domain of the seas for commercial purposes.

No nation need maintain a greater army than that required to suppress domestic insurrection, of which there would be little.

In case of war between any two, the heptarchy could blockade all ports and transport troops from the other non-belligerent Powers if necessary to preserve the peace and enforce its decrees as between the belligerent Powers.

Each nation would be practically self-contained, that is, each would possess domain in every latitude needed to supply every want, so that each would be a world of and unto itself for procuring the means of subsistence and the needs of living. Each would have millions of square miles of land to develop and populate. Deserts and swamps could be transformed into meadows and gardens and the songs of peace supplant the thunderbolts of war.

Each empire or federation could adopt the government of its greatest State or establish a form more agreeable to its constituents or members. All States would retain local self-government, with which the central power, be it a monarchy or a republic, would in no way interfere.

Some of the small nations would undoubtedly protest, but all would be benefited. If the seven great Powers should agree on this or any other distribution the protest of the small States would be of no material consequence.

Compensation could be given by the absorbing Power to any absorbed State to the extent of justice and fair dealing.

Of course volumes could be written on the details, possibilities, practicabilities and impracticabilities of this suggestion and other divisions of the earth's surface might be more desirable and more closely in accord with racial preferences. For example, Africa might be divided between central and southern Europe or between the Teutonic and the Latin Federation instead of between the Latin and the English, and all South America might be English, which would tend to unify the English speaking race. Or Latin South America might be given to Latin Europe and Africa entire to the English.

The apportionment herein named distributes as nearly as is practicable the earth's surface to each Power geographically and ethnologically, recognizing as far as possible all existing ownership. The existing war demonstrates that "preparedness" for war is more likely to cause precipitation than prevention and that to "prevent" is not to prepare. When guns are mounted and loaded they are likely to be discharged on very trivial provocation.

To remove the cause for war, which is jealousy and desire for aggrandizement and power, is to remove both preparedness and precipitation.

If the great American republic comprised forty-eight small nations war between some of them would be constant and relentless.

The war now raging should be the last on earth.

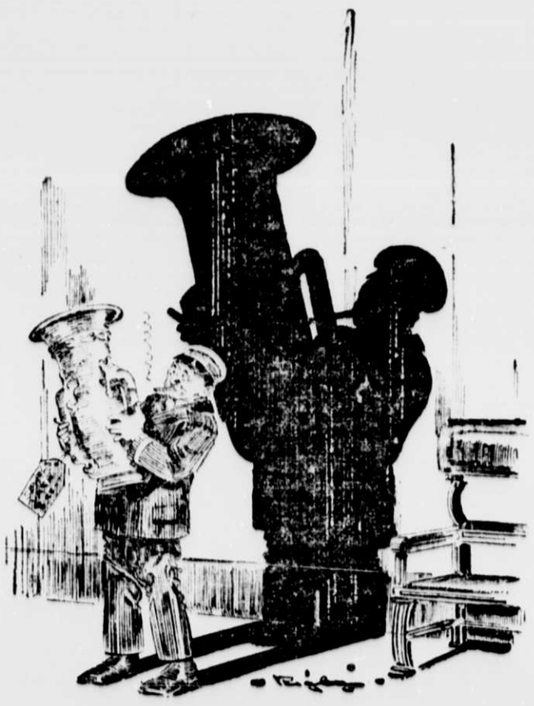
Apportionment of the earth into self-contained zones of nationality and a naval heptarchy to control the seas and arbitrate all differences is the only effectual guarantee against bloodshed and ruin.

All rivalry in naval equipment, coast and border defences and standing armies would cease and the billions now expended for these murderous institutions could be made available for commerce and industry. "Peace hath its victories not less renowned than war."

THE DISCOURAGING ASPECT OF OUR FUTURE --IF SHADOWGRAPHS CAST A MEANING

Not as black as ——

A Napoleon of Music



Not so musical as he looks.

Out for a bear.